

No. 26

December 21, 1943

Hello:

I hope this letter will convey to you from all of us here at the College, our best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous and Glorious New Year.

No Christmas letter would be complete without word from Santa Claus. Here is his latest wartime message:

"I'm sending this message to tell you,
The New Deal has taken away
The things I really needed,
My work shop, my reindeer and sleigh.
I'm making my rounds on a donkey,
He's old, he's crippled, he's slow,
So you know if I don't see you Christmas
I'm out on my ass in the snow."

The basketball season is getting off to a very auspicious start. To date, Doggie's boys have won five and lost one. The scores since the last letter are as follows: Penn State, 40 - 34, Temple, 34 - 32, Lehigh, 73 - 52, Swarthmore, 63 - 35. We lost to Princeton University at Princeton, 59-37. The winning basket coming in the last fifteen seconds of play. All in all, it looks very much as though we are going to have a fine team this season.

Lieut. Comdr. Frederick L. Douthit, former executive officer of the V-12 unit at Princeton, is the new commanding officer at Muhlenberg. The new C.O. is a graduate of Annapolis, class of 1918, and served on the U.S.S. South Dakota and on destroyers on convoy duty off the coast of Ireland in World War I. He was recalled to active duty on December 1940 and arrived on our station last Wednesday.

The Christmas activities on the campus are curtailed of course by the war effort. The wartime restrictions have cancelled the lighting of the campus Christmas tree but the Carol ceremony will be held followed by a Christmas party for the unit in the Library.

The annual Muhlenberg-Cedar Crest, Christmas Carol Service was held on December 10th and Haps had his usual Freshmen Christmas party on the 16th. A survey of other campus happenings includes the football game between the upperclassmen and the freshmen, which was won by the upperclassmen, 6 to 2; additional social functions planned by student council for the students; initiation by the various fraternities; "Death Takes

A Holiday" put on by Mask and Dagger and various and sundry other items. The Christmas vacation has been curtailed a good bit this year extending from December 23 at 1430 to December 27 at 2030. Of course there is the usual griping about the shortened holiday period but then I suppose it wouldn't be the Navy if the men didn't have something to gripe about.

And now for the mail -

"Wolfing Texas women" and also studying like the devil, is Bob MacDonough. Bob reports he is about 30 miles from Dick Sampson and they get together every so often and talk over college daze. Haps would certainly be interested in knowing Bob admitted he "goldbricked" the last semester but he is doing all right now.

Tony Annecchiarico is presently flying army primary trainers at Camden, S. C. Tony writes that he met Jim McGinley at Maxwell Field.

Valedictorian in a class of 573 men graduating from advanced radio and gunnery school is Claude Kershner. Claude is looking forward to pouring hot lead at the Japs from a B-17. At the present time he is at Sioux Falls, S. D.

George Woodley is presently located at Camp Grant, Ill. Wallace Deebel, '29 is stationed at Geiger Field, Wash. Carl Beaver, Ph.M. 3/c is at Great Lakes, Ill. Ray Coward is stationed at Greensboro, N. C.

Despite the bugs of New Guinea and the fact that it was 4:30 in the morning when he was writing to me, Paul Fritsch managed to get off a fine letter. Shortly after arriving at his post, he met Donald Berger who was at 'Berg in '39 and '40. They had a good chat about their college experiences and are boosting Muhlenberg even though they are far away from home.

Joe Windish has been transferred to Truax Field, Madison Wisconsin, where he is studying advanced radio mechanics. He met Ray Hefter who was shipped into his old squadron about the time Joe was ready to leave. Fred Tate has spent 13 months in the Army at the Quartermaster School working with and under the school surgeon. He is at present stationed at Camp Lee, Va. I had a good letter from Charlie Johnson '31 who is now at Camp Stewart, Ga. Yes, Chippy, the stationery is on its way.

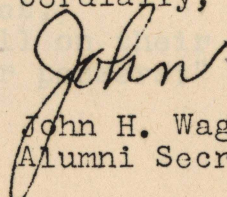
Apologies to Sam Ottinger who is now a second Lieutenant in the Air Corps. Sorry, Sam, it was just one of those things.

From somewhere in North Africa word has been received that Harold Helfrich is on his way still further in his quest for the enemy. Harold says that the Arabs would murder their own mothers for a pack of cigarettes. Of course, Harold, according to that, pipe-smokers wouldn't be in much danger, would they?

Joe McKeone reports that he is a "bedpan commando" at the Valley Forge General Hospital. Bill Wilbur, former Social Science Pedagogue, is now at O.C.S. at Miami Beach. "Whitey" Kurowski is holding forth at Sampson, N.Y. and expects to be transferred to Bainbridge as a physical instructor.

I have a pack of additional letters I would like to mention but I want to make room for the calendars, so until next time,

Cordially,


John H. Wagner
Alumni Secretary